

October 13, 2020 Covid Update

The Board of Selectmen will meet Thursday (Oct. 15) at 6:30 p.m. for committee appointments and interviews and to vote on the revised Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement. The zoom link is posted on the selectmen's agenda on the town website [scituatema.gov]

The Master Plan Community workshop is at 7 p.m. tonight (Tuesday, Oct. 13). The zoom link to register is on the town website [scituatema.gov]. Town Administrator Jim Boudreau urged citizens, who are interested in the future of Scituate, to take part.

The Town Clerk reports that citizens who have applied to vote by mail should be receiving their ballots this week.

Mr. Boudreau reported that, since last week, there have been eight new COVID cases in Scituate. One is a college student and the others are proper Scituate cases. The town infection rate remains at "yellow" on the state map which is one down from the highest level of "red."

The town's 14-day positivity rate last week was 1.29 percent down from 1.49 percent.

Mr. Boudreau noted the virus is still very active and urged residents to maintain social distancing, wash

hands, and wear masks. He said the Covid numbers are still high, which is concerning. There are reports about activity at the youth sports level with people who are not following Covid safety guidelines. If that continues, then the Recreation Department will have discussions about the group's permit.

Depending on what happens over the next two weeks, and in accordance with the state guidelines, trick or treating on Halloween (Oct. 31) will be allowed in Scituate. However, there will not be a Halloween walkaround on Front Street this year. Masks in addition to the Halloween costume mask are required. Look for guidelines on the town website [scituate.ma.gov]. No house parties or indoor activities should take place

Despite Monday's rain and with more in the forecast, Mr. Boudreau said Southeastern Massachusetts is still in an extreme drought. The Scituate reservoir is at 24 percent, down slightly from last week. People should continue to try to conserve. Usage over the past week was 573,000 gallons a day. The town is still issuing violations for outdoor watering. Only hand-held watering cans are allowed from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m.

The police and fire departments will conduct training from 10 a.m. to noon for the next three Wednesdays behind the high school. This is being conducted when the schools are on full remote.

School Committee Vice Chairman Mike Long thanked school nurses, the Board of Health and administration for doing an amazing job with contact tracing of those testing positive for Covid. He also thanked the staff and parents of children who need to quarantine for working together so no child is falling behind.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said two students tested positive over the weekend, making a total of seven positive cases (including students and staff) since the start of school. He noted that zero cases initiated or spread in the schools.

In a Sailor Shoutout: Burkhead praised the Cushing School community that pulled together on short notice during a power outage. Cushing transitioned to fully remote and did not lose a day of learning due to the outage.